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POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR  
THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, 1993

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## INTRODUCTION

The South Alaska Peninsula (South Peninsula) consists of Pacific Ocean coastal waters extending west of Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap on Unimak Island (Figure 1). Generally, the area of the South Peninsula east of Rock Island is open to commercial salmon fishing starting about July 6, except the Southeastern District Mainland fishery, which is managed through July 25 on a management plan (5 AAC 09.360) based on an allocation of Chignik bound sockeye salmon.

Prior to 1976, post June South Peninsula fisheries were open five days per week, with total season closures on August 10 to provide adequate escapement and maintain product quality. From about 1976 to 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 to about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength. Fishing continued into late August in years of strong pink runs. Migratory salmon were also harvested during these openings, and contributed a substantial portion of the total post June harvest in some years. Fishing periods during September and October were based on coho salmon run strength (McCullough and Stopha, 1991).

In November 1991, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) established the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). This plan allows for the harvesting of local stocks through July 19 only in terminal areas, but closes the remainder of the South Peninsula formerly open in post June fisheries. The board decision was based on the concept that local pink and chum salmon could be caught in terminal areas early in the season without sacrificing product quality, while at the same time allowing migratory salmon to pass through the South Peninsula. After July 19, the BOF authorized the opening of traditional cape harvest areas to South Peninsula fishermen. The BOF concluded that to maintain product quality and to allow for available processing capacity the traditional cape harvest areas would need to be open. In accordance with an Alaska State Superior Court order issued on July 10, 1992 by Judge Hopwood (Case No. 3KO-92-239 CI) an injunction was granted staying the enforcement of 5 AAC 09.366 (Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula). On March 2, 1993 Judge Hopwood granted summary judgement in favor of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366) was again in effect.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Peninsula post June fishery will be managed according to the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula as adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1992) during the November 1991 meeting (Appendices A.1 and B.1). Under this plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6-19 will be restricted to terminal fishing areas opened by emergency order based on local stock run strength as gauged by harvest and escapement rates. These areas include Zachary Bay, Inner Pavlof Bay, and the

Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections (Figures 2-4). All fishing periods will be announced by emergency order.

From July 6-19, Zachary Bay and Inner Pavlof Bay will be managed on chum salmon run strength. Morzhovoi Bay and Thin Point Sections will be managed on sockeye salmon run strength. Both sockeye and chum salmon run strength will be considered in managing the Cold Bay Section. Fishing periods are expected to be one day or less per week, unless larger than expected runs occur. Due to anticipated large concentrations of gear in limited areas, the initial fishing period is anticipated to be no longer than 14 hours. The first post June fishing period will be on July 6 or shortly after July 6. Whenever possible, openings will coincide with fishing periods in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery. Due to an anticipated strong sockeye run to Thin Point Cove, closed waters in Thin Point Cove will be reduced to include only those waters within 1,000 yards of the Thin Point lagoon terminus and to all waters within 500 yards of any other salmon stream emptying into Thin Point Cove.

From July 20-August 30, the remainder of the South Peninsula may open to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order. The initial fishing period during this time period is anticipated to occur on July 20 for 2-3 days. The July 20 opening should provide adequate data regarding pink salmon run strength and immature salmon concerns to justify subsequent fishing periods. Fishing periods will be based on pink salmon run strength, although in a few areas fishing periods will be regulated by local chum and sockeye salmon runs. Whenever possible, openings in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts will be concurrent.

Beginning September 1, fishing periods will be based on coho run strength, although late pink and chum runs will be considered when determining fishing periods. No attempt will be made to have concurrent openings between the Southeastern District and the remainder of the South Peninsula.

In an effort to accommodate enforcement activities without impacting legal fishing activities (more than necessary), the following general (there may be occasional circumstances which require different times) opening and closing schedule will be used:

Month	Starting Time	Closing Time
June	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.
July	7:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
August	8:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
September	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
October	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.

The 1993 post June chinook harvest is projected to be about 5,000 salmon<sup>1</sup>. This is about the same as the 1987-91 average harvest of 4,921 salmon and the 1982-91 average harvest of 4,905 salmon (Table 1).

The 1993 post June sockeye salmon harvest (not including those harvested under the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan) is projected to be 300,000 salmon<sup>1</sup>. This compares with the 1987-91 average harvest of 734,465 salmon and the 1982-91 average harvest of 581,840 salmon (Table 1).

The 1993 post June coho salmon harvest is projected to be 300,000 salmon<sup>1</sup>. This compares with the 1987-91 average harvest of 359,452 salmon and the 1982-91 average harvest of 289,547 salmon (Table 1).

The post June pink salmon harvest is projected to be 6,000,000 salmon<sup>2</sup>, which is above both the 1987-91 average of 5,497,577 salmon and the 1982-91 average of 5,399,606 salmon (Table 1).

The 1993 post June chum salmon harvest is projected to be 600,000 salmon<sup>2</sup>, which is less than the 1987-91 average of 873,989 salmon and lower than the 1982-91 average harvest of 1,005,602 salmon (Table 1).

Table 2 lists the 1982-91 combined catch in those areas open from July 6-19 under the new management plan, under the old management plan, and the difference in the number of salmon harvested between the old and new plans. Table 3 lists the 1982-91 catch by area in waters open from July 6-19. Table 4 lists the South Peninsula July 20-September 30, 1982-91, harvest by species.

## IMMATURE SALMON

The Department will conduct a test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section prior to July 20 to assess the presence of immature salmon. Immature salmon are not anticipated to be a problem in the terminal fishing areas allowed to open from July 6-July 19. However, if large numbers of immature salmon are present in any area, such locations will be closed to purse seine gear until the number of immature salmon drops to an acceptable level.

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<sup>1</sup>The projected chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon harvest figures are the sum of the 1982-91 average number of salmon harvested under the new plan as estimated by the number of salmon caught each year in those areas approved to open from July 6-19 (Table 2), plus the 1982-91 average number of salmon harvested from July 20-September 30 (excluding the harvest under the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan).

<sup>2</sup>The projected chum and pink salmon harvest figures are gross estimates based on visual observation of fry abundance in King Cove and Squaw Harbor.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1992. 1992-1994 Bristol Bay and Westward Alaska commercial fishing regulations, salmon and miscellaneous finfish, 1992 edition. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.
- McCullough, J., and M. Stopha. 1991. South Alaska Peninsula Post June Salmon Fishery, 1991. Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 4K91-24, Kodiak.



Table 1. South Peninsula post June commercial salmon catch by species, 1982-92, and projected 1993 catch.<sup>a</sup>

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1982	2,539	171,438	254,363	5,009,333	1,167,186
1983	12,810	521,405	127,157	2,771,640	915,740
1984	4,790	470,918	310,789	10,663,896	1,296,231
1985	724	294,782	170,046	4,323,885	912,580
1986	3,586	687,525	235,852	3,739,423	1,394,332
1987	3,935	463,090	224,740	1,191,512	929,782
1988	7,011	716,949	505,278	6,864,600	1,381,796
1989	4,224	909,335	441,397	7,089,895	538,177
1990	6,164	1,039,265	305,509	2,346,043	715,940
1991	3,270	543,688	320,336	9,995,836	804,251
1992	4,096	767,795	418,093	9,111,099	867,944
1993	5,000	300,000	300,000	6,000,000	600,000
Average					
1987-91	4,921	734,465	359,452	5,497,577	873,989
1982-91	4,905	581,840	289,547	5,399,606	1,005,602

<sup>a</sup> Harvest figures in table do not include salmon harvested under the Southeastern District Management Plan, which is in effect through July 25.

Table 2. South Peninsula July 6-19 harvest by species, 1982-91, showing number of salmon harvested under old plan, under the new plan as estimated by the number of salmon those areas approved to open from July 6-19 by the 1991 Board of Fisheries ruling, and the difference in the number of salmon harvested between the plans.

Year	Chinook			Sockeye			Coho			Pink			Chum		
	Old Plan	New Plan	Old Plan (-) New Plan	Old Plan	New Plan	Old Plan (-) New Plan	Old Plan	New Plan	Old Plan (-) New Plan	Old Plan	New Plan	Old Plan (-) New Plan	Old Plan	New Plan	Old Plan (-) New Plan
1982	1,285	16	1,269	86,231	5,888	80,343	31,038	92	30,946	644,248	145,333	498,915	272,588	88,678	183,910
1983	9,748	15	9,733	343,504	6,186	337,318	41,961	2	41,959	92,667	13,257	79,410	371,523	21,214	350,309
1984	2,628	44	2,584	233,866	43,999	189,867	87,990	366	87,624	884,275	371,771	512,504	437,452	163,968	273,484
1985	174	8	166	47,797	2,724	45,073	16,373	151	16,222	99,391	18,712	80,679	115,697	31,551	84,146
1986	2,477	5	2,472	362,360	16,884	345,476	81,471	58	81,413	142,998	15,040	127,958	273,217	64,332	208,885
1987	2,842	13	2,829	294,461	5,806	288,655	26,329	88	26,241	56,403	149	56,254	176,914	18,979	157,935
1988	4,074	152	3,922	329,105	6,201	322,904	52,786	809	51,977	118,915	1,915	117,000	313,188	65,181	248,007
1989	893	4	889	284,511	3,489	281,022	40,445	112	40,333	181,166	2,700	178,466	141,032	12,257	128,775
1990	4,218	28	4,190	456,533	7,696	448,837	52,174	501	51,673	127,194	7,631	119,563	289,938	23,548	266,390
1991	760	13	747	207,408	3,013	204,395	19,311	248	19,063	86,514	7,618	78,896	29,410	2,112	27,298
1982-91 Average	2,910	30	2,880	264,578	10,189	254,389	44,988	243	44,745	243,377	58,413	184,965	242,096	49,182	192,914

Table 3. Salmon catch by species in areas open under post June salmon management plan from July 6-19, 1982-91.

Area	Year	Number of Salmon				
		Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Zachary Bay	1982	0	0	0	2,383	8,856
	1983	0	0	0	137	2,111
	1984	21	192	200	2,473	19,135
	1985	1	240	32	260	282
	1986	1	253	8	118	8,816
	1987	4	486	38	10	563
	1988	137	1,707	502	482	11,088
	1989	0	835	49	327	103
	1990	11	666	71	188	8,382
	1991	0	160	0	0	50
	Average:	18	454	90	638	5,939
Pavlof-Canoe Bay	1982	12	655	1	142,764	79,450
	1983	9	803	2	13,114	18,467
	1984	23	3,431	166	364,248	134,049
	1985	6	996	10	18,418	31,053
	1986	2	4,097	0	14,393	52,363
	1987	4	1,785	0	105	17,979
	1988	12	3,447	58	936	50,879
	1989	3	1,714	0	473	11,745
	1990	7	368	3	7,334	14,272
	1991	13	2,853	248	7,618	2,062
	Average:	9	2,015	49	56,940	41,232
Cold Bay	1982	0	0	0	30	215
	1983	0	249	0	2	337
	1984	0	1,764	0	4,760	10,119
	1985	0	116	0	0	166
	1986	0	443	0	313	2,803
	1987	0	0	0	0	0
	1988	0	75	0	388	2,810
	1989	0	0	0	0	0
	1990	0	0	0	4	220
	1991	0	185	10	10	36
	Average:	0	283	1	551	1,671

-Continued-

Table 3. (page 2 of 2)

Area	Year	<u>Number of Salmon</u>				
		Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Thin Point	1982	0	0	0	10	0
	1983	0	4,097	0	0	0
	1984	0	3,583	0	290	485
	1985	0	30,047	0	0	0
	1986	0	0	0	0	0
	1987	0	4,856	0	0	0
	1988	0	1,000	0	30	215
	1989	0	0	0	0	0
	1990	0	0	0	0	0
	1991	0	0	2	0	0
	Average:	0	4,843	0	33	70
Morzhovoi Bay	1982	4	1,136	91	50	92
	1983	6	1,551	0	4	299
	1984	0	8,565	0	0	180
	1985	1	1,372	109	34	50
	1986	2	7,235	50	216	350
	1987	5	2,518	50	34	417
	1988	3	972	249	109	404
	1989	1	940	63	75	245
	1990	10	4,737	427	105	464
	1991	4	1,208	171	48	137
	Average:	4	3,023	121	68	264

Table 4. South Peninsula post June commercial salmon catch by species, July 20 - September 30, 1982-91<sup>a</sup>.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho
1982	1,168	77,337	4,364,185	790,051	171,953
1983	2,817	151,160	2,678,357	539,683	41,725
1984	1,193	177,515	9,724,257	679,747	146,403
1985	434	214,693	4,212,612	700,302	95,791
1986	896	259,036	3,580,476	1,047,903	127,435
1987	1,088	162,938	1,134,968	751,151	190,277
1988	2,901	364,262	6,743,529	988,671	401,810
1989	3,258	559,940	6,907,632	191,476	397,699
1990	1,946	582,185	2,218,849	425,992	253,301
1991	2,028	348,704	9,890,640	763,531	292,601
1987-91 avg.	2,244	403,606	5,379,124	624,164	307,138
1982-91 avg.	1,773	289,777	5,145,551	687,851	211,900

<sup>a</sup> Harvest figures in table do not include salmon harvested under the Southeastern District Management Plan, which is in effect through July 25.

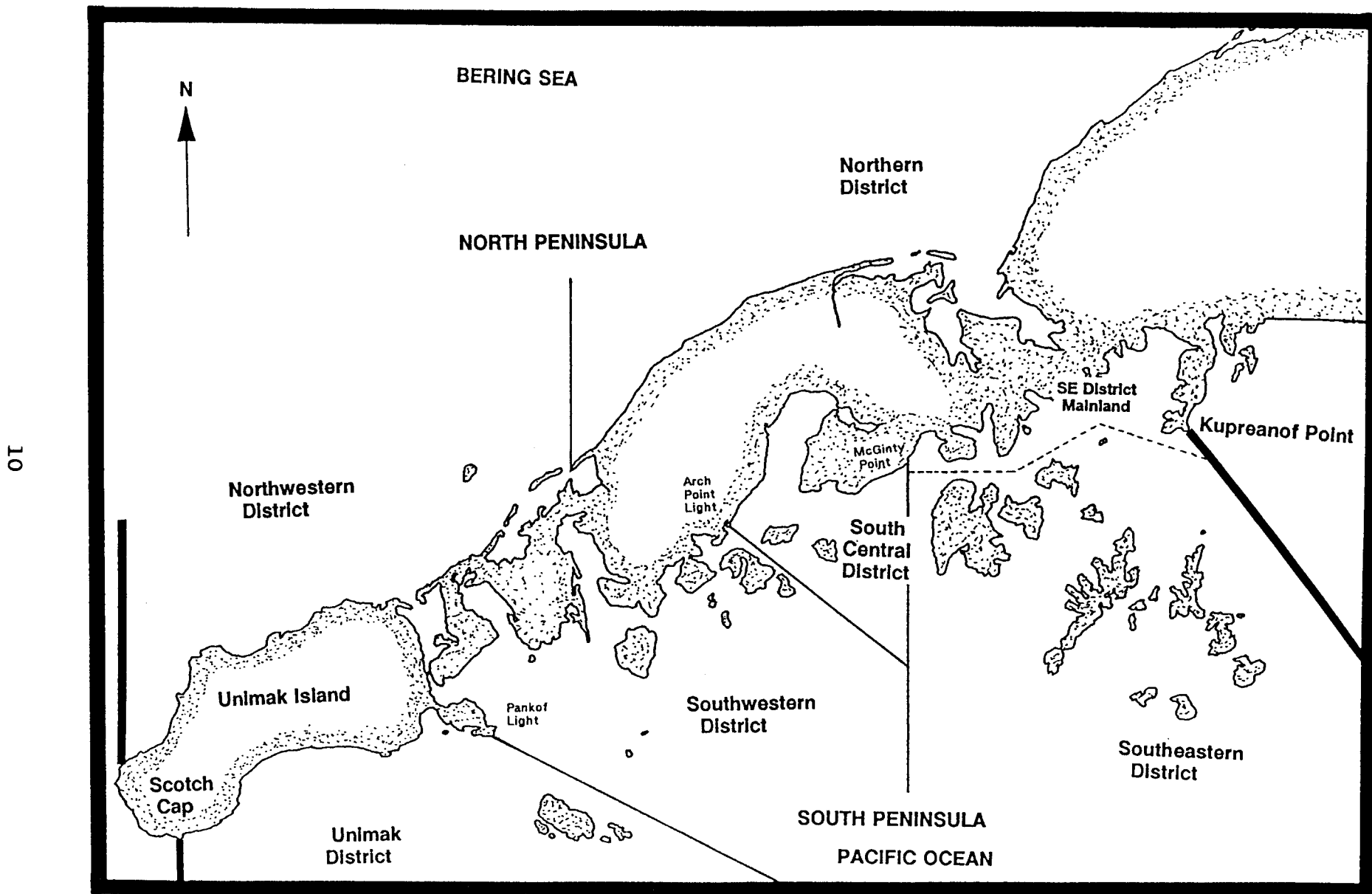


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap with the salmon fishing districts shown.

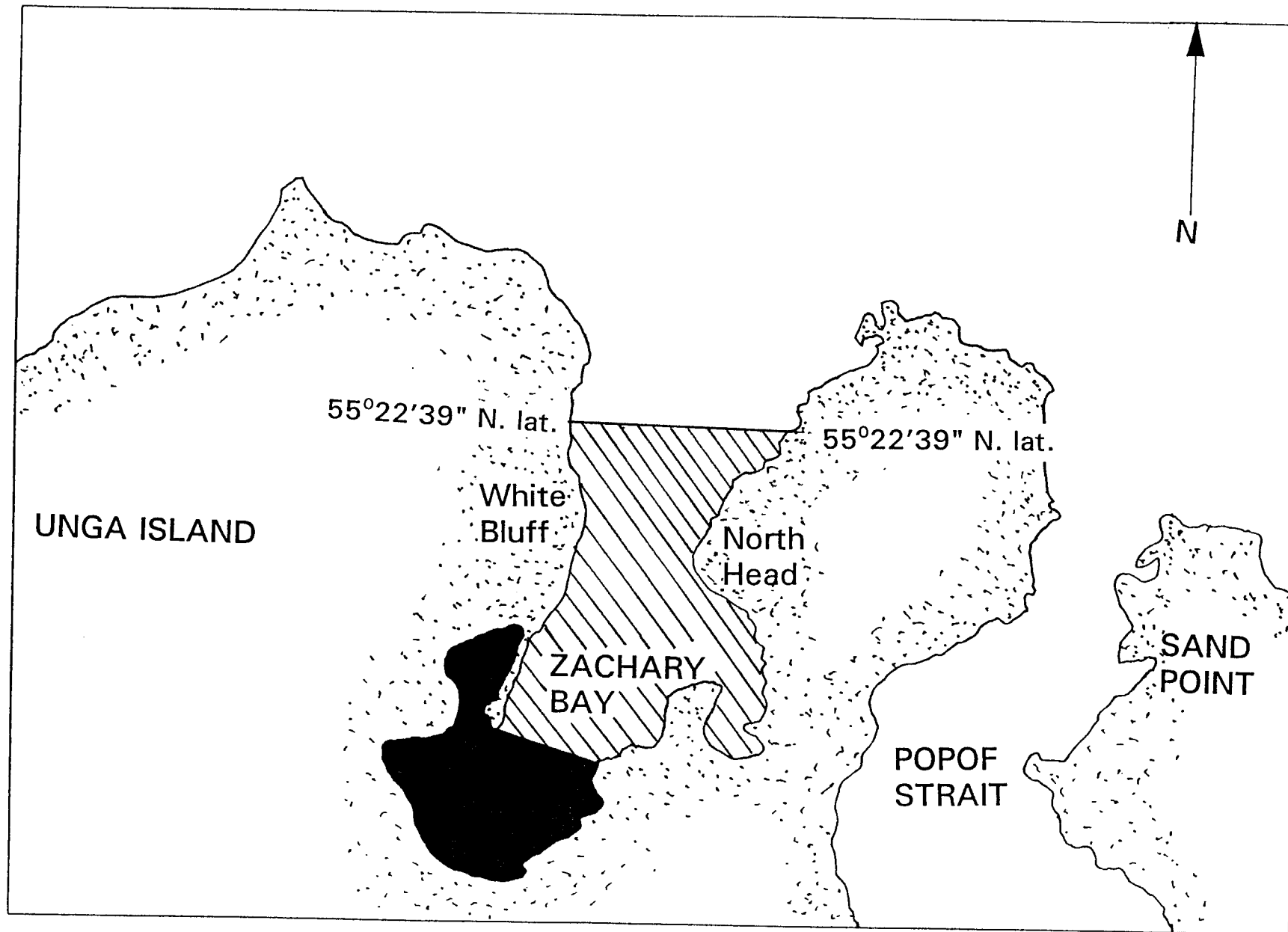


Figure 2. Map of Zachary Bay. In Zachary Bay the shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the zone that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30, south of a line at  $55^{\circ}22'39''$  N. lat. See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.

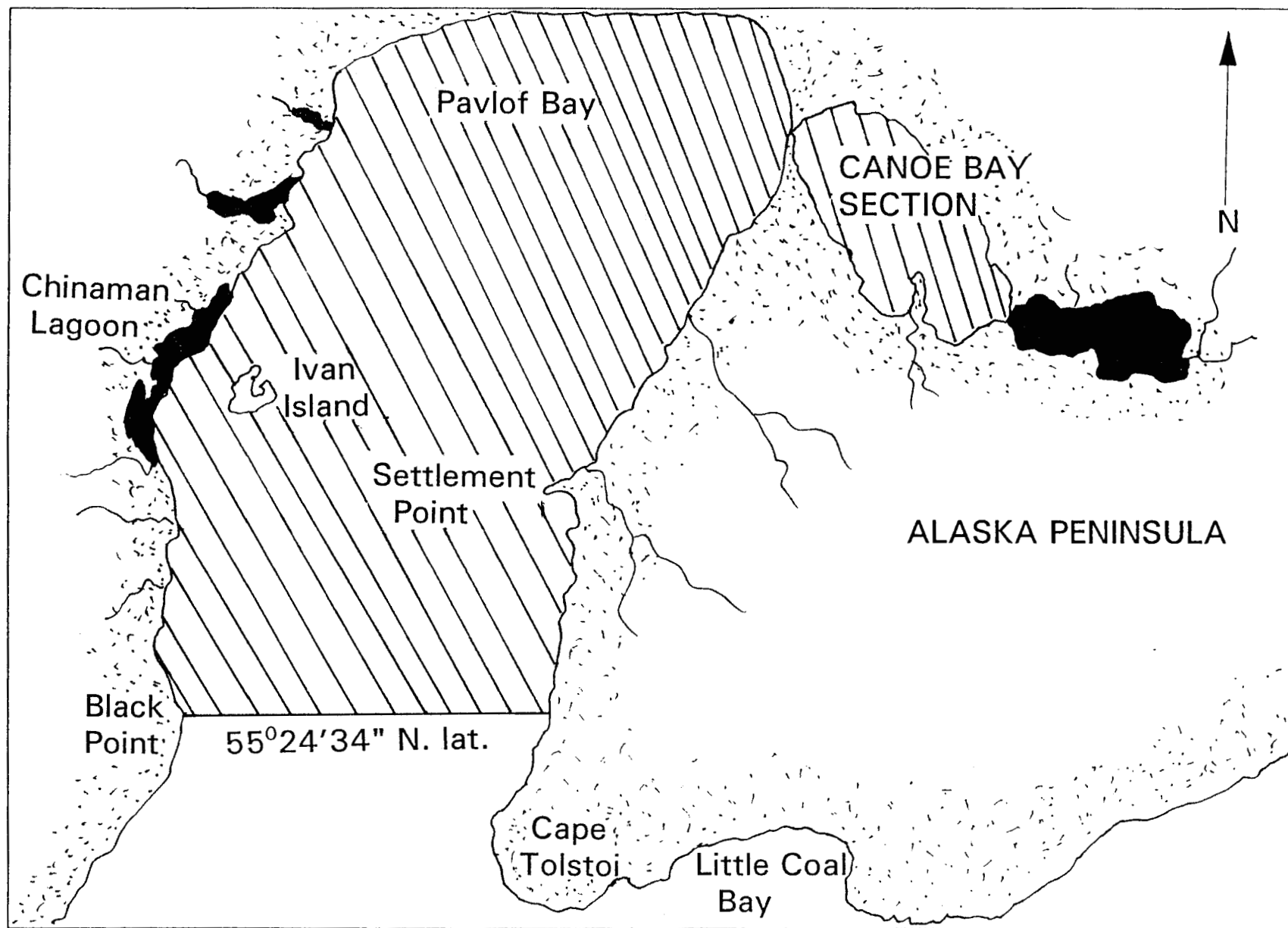


Figure 3. Map of Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Section. The shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the area that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30, north of a line at Black Point (55°24'34" N. lat.). See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.



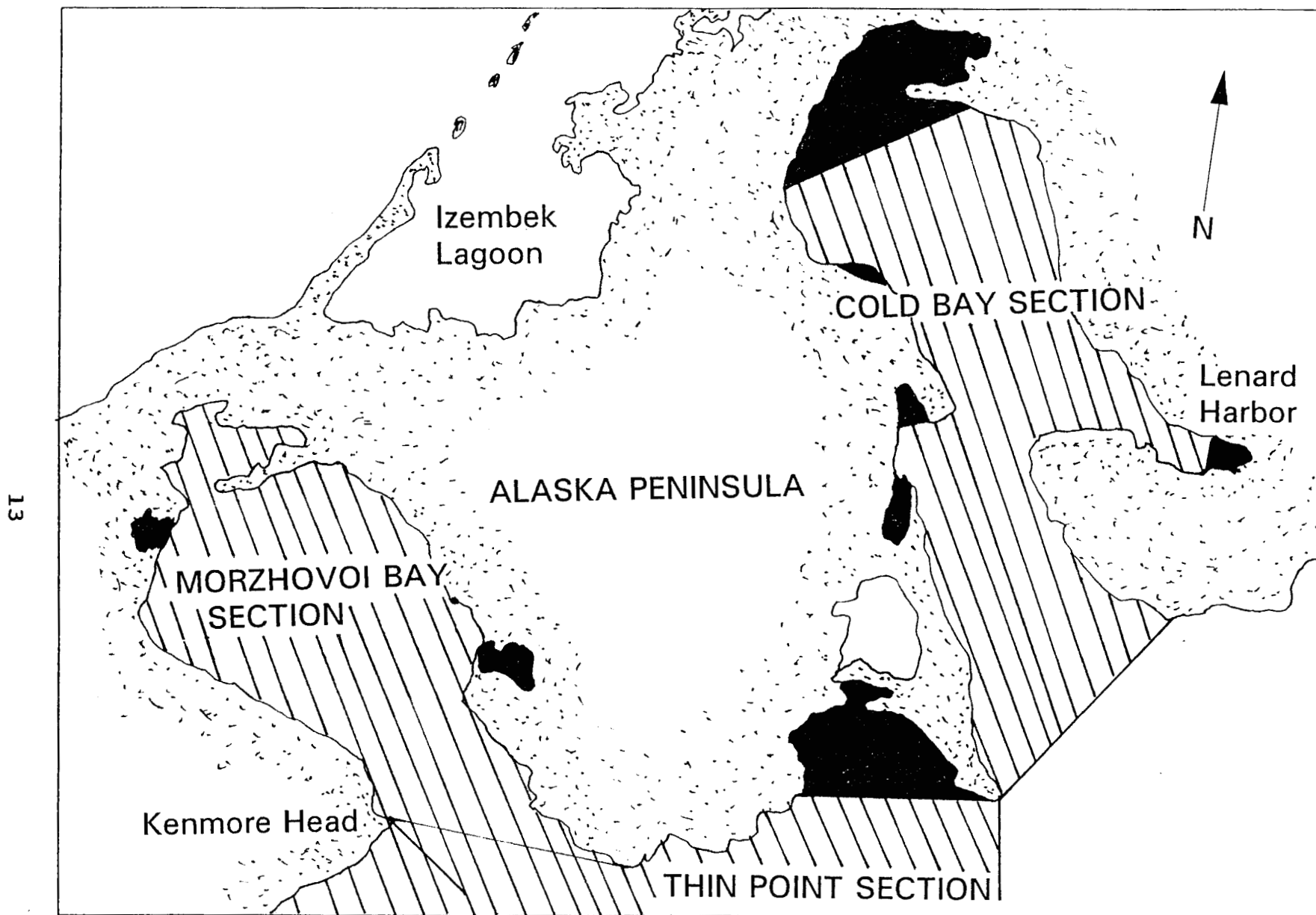


Figure 4. Map of Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections. The shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the area that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30. See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.

## **APPENDIX**

Appendix A.1. Post June salmon management plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula.

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5 AAC 09.366. POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTHERN ALASKA PENINSULA.

(a) The department may open the following areas to salmon fishing from July 20 through September 30:

(1) the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, excluding all waters south of a line extending from the eastern shore of Zachary Bay at 55° 22' 39" N. lat., 160° 35' 03" W. long., to a point on the western shore of Zachary Bay at 55° 22' 39" N. lat., 160° 38' 47" W. long;

(2) the Southcentral District, excluding the Canoe Bay Section and all waters north of the Pavlof Bay Section north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24' 34" N. lat.);

(3) the Southwestern District, excluding the Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections, and the Unimak District;

(b) The department may open the following areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through September 30:

(1) in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, all waters south of a line extending from the eastern shore of Zachary Bay at 55° 22' 39" N. lat., 160° 35' 03" W. long., to a point on the western shore of Zachary Bay at 55° 22' 39" N. lat., 160° 38' 47" W. long.;

(2) in the Pavlof Bay Section of the Southcentral District, all waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24' 34" N. lat.);

(3) the Canoe Bay Section of the Southcentral District;

(4) in the Southwestern District, the Cold Bay, Thin Point and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

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## Appendix B.1. Application of fishery management plans.

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### 5 AAC 39.200 APPLICATION OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS.

- (a) The Board of Fisheries has implemented by regulation fishery management plans that provide the Department of Fish and Game with guidelines to be followed when making management decisions regarding the state's subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use fisheries. The primary goal of these management plans is to protect the sustained yield of the state's fishery resources while at the same time providing an equitable distribution of the available harvest between various users. The regulations contained in this section are intended to aid in the achievement of that goal and therefore will apply to all fishery management plans contained in 5 AAC 03-5 AAC 39.
  - (b) In some fishery management plans, the distribution of harvestable fish between various users is determined by the harvest that occurs during a specific time period, at a specific location, or by a specific group or groups of users. At times fishermen, due to circumstances that are beyond the control of the department, such as weather or price disputes, will not harvest fish. When this happens in a fishery governed by a management plan, the goals of the plan may not be achieved. Therefore, when a fishery is open to the taking of fish and the group or groups of users whose catch determines the distribution of the harvest as set out in the applicable management plan are not taking the harvestable fish available to them, the department shall manage the fishery as if the available harvest is being taken. When determining the available harvest, the department shall consider the number of fish needed to meet spawning requirements, the number of fish present in the fishery and in spawning areas that are in excess to spawning requirements, and the estimated harvesting capacity of the group or groups of users that would normally participate in the fishery.
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